



Robert L. Quinn
Commissioner

State of New Hampshire

DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY

Division of Fire Standards and Training & Emergency Medical Services

www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems



Justin A. Cutting
Director

Jeffrey R. Phillips
Assistant Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2024

MEDIA CONTACT:

Tyler Dumont, Public Information Officer

PIO@dos.nh.gov

(603) 223-3641

NEWS RELEASE

BETHLEHEM FIRE & EMS TRAINING FACILITY TO RECEIVE MORE THAN \$5 MILLION IN INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

BETHLEHEM, N.H. – New Hampshire Department of Safety Commissioner Robert L. Quinn and Division of Fire Standards and Training & Emergency Medical Services Director Justin A. Cutting announce nearly \$5.2 Million in facility improvements, along with significant investments in personnel and training programming, at the Raymond S. Burton Fire and EMS Training Facility in Bethlehem, NH.

Funding for the new investments, which was approved by Governor Sununu and the Executive Council on Feb. 21, will result in significant improvements to the safety, accessibility, training quality and opportunities for firefighters and emergency medical services providers in the North Country.

A new heated garage will be constructed to securely house apparatus, equipment and training simulators to ensure effective and safe fire instruction. The garage will also feature a decontamination area with showers and an area where all contaminated personal protective clothing will be cleaned and stored. The decontamination area will also support cancer awareness and prevention, and aid in cancer risk reduction for firefighters exposed to carcinogens.

Additionally, a second classroom will be built within an unfinished space in the existing facility, allowing for increased usage and simultaneous scheduling of courses across multiple disciplines. A new training building will also be constructed to replace an existing one that no longer meets current training standards.

“New Hampshire’s firefighters and emergency medical services providers are the best of the best!” said Governor Chris Sununu. “These improvements to our facility in Bethlehem will not only strengthen public safety in the North Country but ensure that New Hampshire remains one of the top states nationwide for public safety.”

Funds will further be used to complete necessary upgrades to the existing electrical system, water and sewer, replacement of the HVAC system, as well as general site work necessary to support the proper environment for learning as well as for student health and safety.

The project will also add wireless internet to the facility to accommodate modernized, evolving courses, underscoring the division's commitment to facilitating cutting-edge, technology-driven educational initiatives.

"Making these infrastructure improvements will improve public safety for Granite Staters in the northern part of our state," said Director Cutting.

Separately funded upgrades will also address a current Division of Motor Vehicles initiative, another division within the Department of Safety, by constructing a paved Commercial Driver License testing site at the Bethlehem location, accommodating the increasing demand for CDL drivers and reducing candidate travel times to other testing sites.

"We are grateful for the support of the Governor and Executive Council to secure these funds and make this significant investment in the Raymond S. Burton Fire and EMS Training Facility," said Commissioner Quinn. "The improvements will enhance public safety and the quality of life in New Hampshire."

Construction work is scheduled to begin later this year.

###